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changes**  
**12**

# Chieftain

**50** YEARS

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 4

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 12, 2024



ICC students, from left, Whitt Willis, Jordan Springer and Natalie Ryals pause during working on an online assignment.

## BestColleges.com recognizes ICC as BEST in Mississippi and among nation's Top 10

### Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College has been recognized as the best online community college in Mississippi and among the top 10 in the nation by BestColleges.com, a leading online resource for college planning and advice.

"It is a tremendous honor for Itawamba Community College to be selected the best in the state and among the best in the nation by BestColleges.com," said ICC President Dr. Jay Allen. "Exceptional recognitions such as this are indications of the success of the College, its continuing status as a premier community college.

and a testament to our exceptional faculty and staff, without whom it would not be possible. Success breeds success, and our students and alumni are proof that the BEST start here."

This year, BestColleges.com revised its approach to school rankings, focusing on the most important factors that students consider in their college decision-making process," according to Nicholas Linden, senior communications manager. The metrics were taken directly from its College Choice and Admission survey, reflecting the top preferences and priorities of students from across the country.

In the 2023 College Choice and Admissions Survey, current college students shared what mattered most when selecting a school or program. To rank colleges, BestColleges.com considered the top factors they identified, including affordability, student outcomes, flexibility and accessibility, reputation, ease of admissions and student diversity. Minimum requirements for associate degree programs are accredited public or private non-profit institution, offer an online associate degree program in the given subject and submit an annual report to the National Center for Education Sta-

tistics.

"We are thrilled to introduce these signature rankings, which are tailored to meet the needs and interests of students, providing them with valuable insights into the colleges and universities that align with their goals and values," Linden said.

Since 2014, the mission of BestColleges has been to provide an objective assessment of school and program quality. It is dedicated to empowering students with the information they need to make informed choices about their education and career journeys.

For the latest news updates  
.... See [www.iccems.edu](http://www.iccems.edu)


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Sports


# VIEWPOINTS

## VIEWPOINT

MAKENZIE SNEED  
Chieftain Staff

### Be grateful for where you stand

As a student, it's easy to become overwhelmed with all the busy going on in day-to-day life.

The rush of getting from class to class (hopefully stumbling upon a good parking spot to refrain from being tardy), the hours it takes sitting at a desk to fully grasp the material being covered in an upcoming test and the hopeless strive to just make it to Friday has many of us stuck in an endless rut. But if we, as students, start practicing gratitude, perhaps we would feel less in a rush and more grateful for what is on our plates.

Gratitude is defined as a state of being grateful. It involves showing appreciation for the goodness of life by acknowledging what is meaningful or valuable.

The practice of gratitude has been proven by scientific studies to brighten the outlook on life, enhance mood and feel more positive in the face of difficulties. No matter how big or how small, there is always something to be grateful for, whether that is scoring the highest grade in the class on a challenging test or simply making it home each day from the commute to school.



The importance of gratitude is to emphasize the good already in one's life. By choosing to express gratitude, that person's mindset inherently moves away from the overwhelming negative and onto the outstanding positive.

Rather than take the negative out of a situation, try to look for the positive in things. Not only will it decrease anxiety and improve mood through the release of serotonin and dopamine in the brain, but it also is known to aid battling mental illness by shifting the mind to a more positive outlook.

Adjusting our mindset to be more positive enables us to attract and find good in more of what we encounter on life's journey. There is so much for us to be grateful for, and by taking the chance to acknowledge and appreciate it, our focus will shift from negativity to positivity.

There are various methods for practicing gratitude, such as prayer, making gratitude lists and sharing gratitude with others.

Focusing on the good in every situation enables us to feel more fulfilled with our life journey.

Research proves that gratitude greatly affects our well-being. The studies found greater happiness, more optimism and positive emotions, new and lasting relationships, better health, more progress toward personal goals, fewer aches and pains, more alertness and determination, increased generosity and empathy, better sleep, emphasis on hope for the future, improved emotional regulation and self-esteem and reduced stress and burnout area linked to the practice of gratitude. - **See Gratitude, page four.**

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## OPINION POLL

### OPINION POLL

“  
As a  
college  
student,  
how do  
you deal  
with  
stress?  
”

“I take deep breaths/breaks and think how or what to do with the situation. I like to see the outcome of different points of view and try to stick with the plan that I decided with.” - **Aly Sanchez, freshman, Pontotoc**

“Take a walk to get fresh air. I know some people that like to clean and organize something to destress because it cleans their mind.” - **Nataly Ramirez-Reyes, freshman, Ripley**

“I just try not to think about it honestly so it can't hurt me.” - **Ian Thomas, sophomore, Olive Branch**

“I like to meditate. It helps me deal with stress. I also like to work out and listen to music or sit in the dark listening to music to ignore any outside noise or distractions. I also pray and read my Bible because that does calm me down.” - **Jacob Goodman, sophomore, Columbus**

“Get off social media for a while. People like to post a lot of stuff. I like going out with friends or even talk to my friends about how I feel.” - **Samantha Noriega, freshman, Ripley**

“I like to play soccer to clear my mind. If I can't do that, I go to the gym or drive.” - **Ahmad Patton-Bey, sophomore, Oxford**

“I usually grind, especially if it's a test I'm preparing for. I try to study a little bit every day up until closer to the test. It's more constant but getting a sweet treat every now and then keeps me motivated. Just rewarding yourself. If I know I'm gonna go out and do something fun on the weekend, it helps me stay motivated so it's well-earned.” - **Saja Darwish, sophomore, Tupelo**

“Not joking, heavy squats or take a hot shower. I also play guitar for three hours.” - **Lizzie Dowdy, sophomore, Tupelo**

KYLE TRAYLOR

Chieftain Staff

## VIEWPOINT

Reprinted and adapted  
Berkley Beacon

### The impact of Valentine's Day

At Issue: The impact of Valentine's Day in College.

Our Take: Show love to everyone in your life.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day, we should remind ourselves of the importance or compassion in a world flooded with disdain and other political, economic and social issues. This Valentine's Day, it's imperative that we all take a moment out of our busy lives to show love and support to everyone on campus, including ourselves.

We should not solely dedicate Valentine's Day to romantic relationships, but rather to the empathy, compassion and admiration we feel for those who have a positive impact on our lives. Remember the Campus Police, Dining Hall workers, faculty, staff and family members who all hold vital roles in our day-to-day activities.

Write a thank you note to your teacher, spend time talking to faculty and staff or call your parents to catch up and tell them you love them. These actions could make someone's Valentine's Day mean so much more.

It is also important to acknowledge the capitalist nature of this holiday and the potential to spark gratitude that could stick around. In 2018, CNN projected that Valentine's Day consumers spent \$19.6 billion on gifts in the U.S. last year. So instead of purchasing chocolate and a cheesy card, we can perform meaningful acts of kindness for a significant other, friend or stranger. We can find other ways to show our love. We shouldn't put a price tag on a feeling.

Many people can feel lonely or left out during a day that idealizes a flowery combination of love, companionship and romance. A recent University of Chicago study found that negative thoughts about our interpersonal relationships are one of the biggest causes of loneliness. It's undeniable that a holiday that encourages puppy love and public displays of affection can exacerbate this awareness of how alone we may feel.

Connecting with people around us on this important day, despite our busy schedule, can help all of us feel better.

But these acts of love and kindness toward ourselves and others should go beyond special occasions and holidays. Remember the people you interact with every day all have lives of their own outside our college.

Our appreciation and acknowledgment for their work shouldn't just be expressed on Valentine's Day. It should be expressed every day. - **Originally printed in the Berkley Beacon, February 13, 2019**

## Chieftain 50

Staff Writers.....Shelby Franks, Kenna Grant, Alea Hudson, ZaMarion Jones, Mathius Mallard, Mackenzie Sneed, Kyle Taylor

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The Chieftain is available online only and is posted three times each semester.

Views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the faculty and administration.

Itawamba Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate's degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.679.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Itawamba Community College.

Itawamba Community College is an equal opportunity institution. The College strictly prohibits discrimination in its educational programs and activities, employment practices and admissions processes on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ethnicity, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran or other status protected by applicable law.

For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271, or email [TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu](mailto:TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu).

# Faculty SPOTLIGHT

## David Rakestraw

*Social Science Instructor*

**FAMILY:** Resident of Blue Springs, just a couple of miles from Toyota Manufacturing Mississippi. Wife, Denise Rakestraw, who teaches microbiology on both the Fulton and Tupelo campuses; Children, Gabe, a senior; Bella, eighth grade; and Liam, third grade.

**EDUCATION:** B.A. degree from the University of Mississippi in English, history minor; master's degree in secondary education with history and geography focus from Delta State University and Educational Specialist degree from Arkansas State University.

### WHAT DO YOU CURRENTLY TEACH OR HAVE TAUGHT:

**TAUGHT:** Currently teaching sections of U.S. History I and II and World Regional Geography.



**POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TEACHING:** "The schedule can't be beat! I'm able to spend plenty of time with my family because of that. Also, I truly enjoy seeing students comprehend a topic that they didn't know about or didn't understand before."

**NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF TEACHING:** "It is a little frustrating when students geek out over the same things I do!"

**WORDS OF ADVICE FOR FUTURE STUDENTS:** "Do your best in all your classes! GPA is important for a lot of different things, and you never know what is in store for your future. That class you think is just some elective might just be very important in your future."

**FUN FACT:** "My wife and I were on vacation in Ireland when the world shut down for COVID! We flew back into the U.S. the last day flights were open!"

**ALEA HUDSON**  
*Chieftain Staff*

## Six named to All-Academic Team

*Staff Reports*

Six Itawamba Community College students have been selected for the 2024 Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Team Recognition.

They include Nyesha Banks of Tupelo; Holly Carrington of Southaven, Kagen Ezell of Thaxton; and Emma Mask of Plantersville, all AllUSA Transfer and Jessie Corley of Ecru and Sara Roberts of Beaverton, Ala., AllU-

SAWorkforce.

They will be honored at the 2023 PTK All-Mississippi Team luncheon at 11:15, Apr. 10, at the Muse Center in Pearl.

Each two-year college in Mississippi may nominate students to the All-USA Academic Team.

Nominations are based on academic performance and service to the college and community.

**Happy Valentine's Day!**



## 50+ contestants to compete for '24 Most Beautiful title

*Staff Reports*

More than 50 contestants will compete for the title of Itawamba Community College's Most Beautiful 2024, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m. in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center auditorium on the Fulton Campus.

They include Kylee Smith of Abbeville; Khellia McIntosh, Stephanie Riddle, both of Aberdeen; Olivia Miller of Ackerman; Reese Griffith, Jolie Bishop, Laney Howell, all of Amory; Dominique Jones of Baldwyn; Anna Claire Gant, Alexis Dickinson, both of Batesville; Don'Neica Key, Brandi Deloach, both of

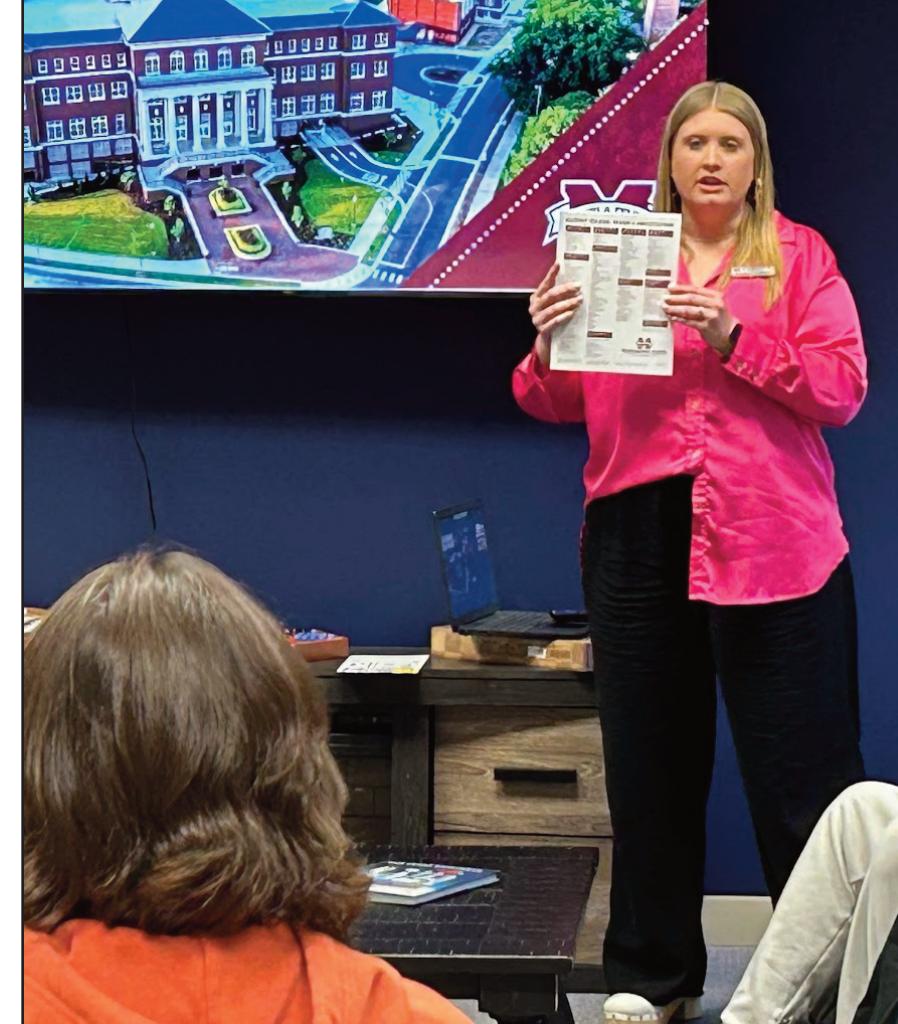
Caledonia; Allie Vance of Columbus; Ahselyn Isbell of Corinth; Shelby Woods of Dorsey; Annasia Berry of Ecrù; Chloe Digby of Fulton; Alivia Harris of Golden; Lowery Taylor, Hallie Gosa, Madison Mitchell, Katelyn West, all of Hamilton; Holly Pettit of Houston; Jordan Springer, Elissa Texada, Morgan Hamlin, all of Mooreville; Isabella Childers of Myrtle; Madalynn Minica, Lucy Vaughn, both of Nettleton; Alea Hudson of New Albany; Katelyn Lewis, Kensley Woolbright, both of New Hope; Liana Logan of Oxford; Ella Huey, Nealee Turner, Riley Ward-

law, Shelby Karson Mitchell, Jasmier Coleman, all of Pontotoc; Anna Beth Gray of Red Bay, Ala.; Maria Carrillo, Addie Lackey, Chloe Lackey, all of Saltillo; Alivia Tipton, Chloe Reeder, Autumn Jordan, all of Smithville; Leigh Strickland, Treviana Harris, Aurora Gibson, all of Tupelo; and Aubrey Eaton of Woodland.

Since tickets are sold out, the pageant will be livestreamed at [letscoicctv.com/grey-channel/](http://letscoicctv.com/grey-channel/).

The event is sponsored by the ICC Global Experience.

For more information, email [travel@iccms.edu](mailto:travel@iccms.edu).



## STEM Week

**Itawamba Community College** celebrated Feb. 5-9 as **STEM Week** with special presentations and events. The **STEM Club**, which is available at all three ICC locations, connects students with an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Members have an opportunity to attend events with speakers from different fields as well as network with other students. - Photos furnished

**Chieftain staff needed...email [dsthomas@iccms.edu](mailto:dsthomas@iccms.edu)**

# College

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SPRING 2024

**Feb. 19** Presidents' Day Holiday (students, employees)

**Feb. 21** Last day to drop classes with a 'W' through excessive absences or withdrawal from classes for eLearning first eight-week classes

**Feb. 23** Last day to drop classes with a 'W' through excessive absences or withdrawal from classes for traditional first eight-week classes

**Feb. 26** Both 2024 summer and fall class schedules available

**Feb. 28** First day of student advising for 2024 summer and fall

**Feb. 28** Student Evaluation of Instruction surveys available

**Feb. 28/29** Final exams for traditional first eight-week classes

**Mar. 1** Progress reports due for traditional full-term day/night and eLearning full-term classes

**Mar. 4-7** Final exams for eLearning first eight-week classes

**Mar. 4** First day of class for traditional second eight-week classes

**Mar. 5** Last day to add traditional second eight-week classes

**Mar. 11** **Spring Break for students/employees** First day of class for eLearning second eight week classes

**Mar. 12** Last day to add eLearning second eight-week classes

**Mar. 25** Registration for currently-enrolled Honors College 2 p.m., and Allied Health students begins at 3 p.m.

**Mar. 26** Registration for currently-enrolled sophomores who have completed 24 or more hours begins at 7:30 a.m.

**Mar. 27** Last day to drop classes with a 'W' through excessive absences or withdrawal from classes for eLearning full-term classes

**Mar. 28** Registration for currently-enrolled freshmen begins at 7:30 a.m.

**Mar. 29** Good Friday holiday for students and employees

**Apr. 1** Good Monday holiday for students and employees

**Apr. 8** First day of class for eLearning second four-week classes

Last day to add eLearning second four-week classes

**Apr. 10** Honors Orientation begins at 1 p.m. (Fulton Campus)

**Apr. 15** First day of registration for re-admission students and transfer students

**Apr. 17** Last day to drop classes with a 'W' through excessive absences or withdrawal from classes for eLearning second eight-week classes

**Apr. 19** Freshman Orientation begins at 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. (Fulton Campus)

**Apr. 22-26** Final exams for eLearning full-term classes



### Super Sunday

**In case you missed it, ICC's Super Bowl commercial by C.J. Adams aired yesterday. It's available on YouTube.**

### ICC students among juried exhibit winners

#### Staff Reports

Several Itawamba Community College students were among award winners in the juried exhibit that was recently on display in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center gallery at the Fulton Campus.

They include

**Belden** - Karol Adriana Aris-Little, third place in 2D design for "Little Earrings;"

**Fulton** - Emily Tibbs, Best in Show for "Gorgeous Golden Lady;" Keyelle Holder, second place in drawing for "Nightmare Baby From Hell;"

**Greenville** - Vega Taylor, honorable mention in drawing for "Amongst the Folds;"

**Guntown** - Alli Porter, first place in drawing for "Bass and Glass;"

**Mooreville** - Mon-

serrat Garcia, first place in 2D design for "1863 Jungle" and honorable mention in the same category for "03' Louisiana;"

**Pontotoc** - Isaiah Pannell, third place in drawing for "Self Portrait" and honorable mention in the same category for "The Baby Bottle;" Mak Masters, third place in 3D design for "Enchanted Ukelele;"

**Tupelo** - Meliah Senter, second place in 2D design for "Stylization Tryptic;" Noah Sartin, first place in 3D design for "Fairie Trifecta;" Nailah Slatter, second place in 3D design for "Egyptian Enchantment;" and William C. Wood, honorable mention in 3D design for "Shining Star."

Juror for the exhibit was Tom Douglas, former member of the ICC art faculty.



Triplett

Kayson and Karson. He earned the associate's degree from Itawamba Community College, the bachelor's degree from Blue Mountain Christian University and the master's degree from Walden University. Prior to joining the ICC family, he was a Mental Health Clinician for Lifecore Health Group in Tupelo.

Triplett accepted his call into the ministry at the age of 20 and preached his first sermon at Mount Sinai Baptist Church in 2005. From 2014-22, he served as senior pastor at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Hamilton, and he now is lead pastor at The Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Aberdeen.

He participates in mission trips, Race for the Cure, Sisters Network banquet and Relay for Life as well as a small group Bible study with the Tupelo Crisis Stabilization Unit, Thanksgiving Outreach Ministry and volunteer Bible Study at local mental health agencies. He is the past Polemarch/President of the Oxford Alumni Chapter and an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Triplett is a native of Louisville.

The program is free and open to the public.

### Music changes the way people think and behave

**Christy Griffith presents "Music: A Uniquely Human Experience," last Tuesday in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center auditorium. She is the recipient of Itawamba Community College's Mississippi Humanities Teacher Award for 2024 and will be among those honored at an awards ceremony in March at the Two Museums in Jackson.**



It reduces physical benefits such as bringing an individual closer to loved ones, decreasing blood pressure and reducing inflammation. Those who practice gratitude are more likely to engage in healthier behaviors like exercising regularly and following a healthy diet. Whether it's keeping a gratitude journal, practicing mindfulness or writing notes of appreciation, gratitude is only a thought away. Being in the present and grateful where we are allows us to observe the good every day that we take for granted. It will positively change our outlook on life. Together, gratitude will make us and our world a better place. Won't you try it with me?

outlook on life.

Together, gratitude will make us and our world a better place. Won't you try it with me?

outlook on life.

Together, gratitude will make us and our world a better place. Won't you try it with me?

outlook on life.

Together, gratitude will make us and our world a better place. Won't you try it with me?



## Meeting Room CLUB NEWS & CALENDAR

### PROFESSIONAL/SCHOLARLY

Alpha Delta Nu	alphadeltanu@iccms.edu
Educators Rising	educatorsrising@iccms.edu
Humanities Club	humanitiesclub@iccms.edu
ICC Art Club	artclub@iccms.edu
ICC Honors College	honors@iccms.edu
Legal Education Association	lea@iccms.edu
MOSA	mosa@iccms.edu
Nurses Christian Fellowship	ncf@iccms.edu
PEAK Club	peak@iccms.edu
Phi Theta Kappa	PTKFulton@iccms.edu
Sigma Kappa Delta	SKD@iccms.edu
Skills USA	skillsusa@iccms.edu
STEM Club	stemclub@iccms.edu
SOTA (Occupational Ther.)	sota@iccms.edu
The Business Council	council@iccms.edu
The Global Experience	travel@iccms.edu

### COLLEGE-BASED

Archery Club	archery@iccms.edu
Bass Club	bassclub@iccms.edu
Chieftain (Newspaper)	chieftain@iccms.edu
Disc Golf Club	discgolf@iccms.edu
eSports Club	esports@iccms.edu
Fashion Tribe	fashiontribe@iccms.edu
Indian Delegation	delegate@iccms.edu
MANUP	manup@iccms.edu
Mirror (Yearbook)	mirror@iccms.edu
Orientation Leaders	orientation@iccms.edu
Student Activities Board	SAB@iccms.edu
Student Government Assn.	SGAFulton@iccms.edu
SGATupelo@iccms.edu	

### FINE ARTS PERFORMING

All-American Band	band@iccms.edu
CenterStage	centerstage@iccms.edu
Choir and Chamber Singers	choir@iccms.edu
Color Guard	colorguard@iccms.edu
Concert Ensembles	band@iccms.edu
Film Club	filmclub@iccms.edu
Indianettes	indianettes@iccms.edu
Jazz Ensemble	jazz@iccms.edu
Pom Squad	pomsquad@iccms.edu
Steel Drum Band	band@iccms.edu
Theatre Productions	theatre@iccms.edu
Woodwind Ensembles	woodwinds@iccms.edu

### RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Baptist Student Union	bsu@iccms.edu
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	FC@iccms.edu
Nurses Christian Fellowship	NCF@iccms.edu
Wesley Foundation	wesley@iccms.edu

**For more information  
on ICC clubs  
and organizations,  
[www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu).**

**Apply TODAY  
for graduation**

**ZaMarion Jones**  
Chieftain Staff

Itawamba Community College sophomores who will complete their degree requirements at the end of the 2024 spring semester should apply to graduate by Mar. 22, according to Ashton Smith, degree auditor in the Admissions office.

“Even if students don’t plan on participating in the ceremony, they should still apply to prevent a delay in their degree being awarded, Smith said.

Several commencement ceremonies are scheduled for May 10 at the Davis Event Center at the Fulton Campus.

Beginning Apr. 17, a Canvas course will be available for those who are participating in the Commencement ceremony. The course will include how to receive the diploma, pick up the cap and gown, properly wear the regalia and the ceremony of participation. At the end of the course, participants will receive an exit survey and select the Fulton or Tupelo Campus Bookstore for pick up, which will be May 1-10.

To apply, students must access the “Apply for Graduation” tab via myTribe, complete and submit the application.

For more information, email [registrar@iccms.edu](mailto:registrar@iccms.edu) or call (662) 862-8033.



## ICC Health Sciences to host Code Blue, Red event

### Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College's Health Sciences Division will host a Code Blue and Red event Feb. 23 in the Health Science Education Center at the Tupelo Campus.

Students from area schools will be on campus in two shifts (8:15 and 10:15 a.m.) to observe three simulated scenarios that highlight each of ICC's 11 Health Science programs, said Michael Holloway, director of Recruitment and Orientation. A North Mississippi Medical Center ambulance will arrive, and the students will see first-hand the need for and the role healthcare professionals play in the process. “It will be an im-



pactful program,” Holloway said. “Our hope is that these students see the ‘real-life’ expertise used by the graduates of ICC’s programs.”

Participating programs include students and faculty from Associate Degree Nursing, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical Sciences, Health Information, Occupational Therapy As-

sistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, Practical Nursing, Public Health, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care and Surgical Technology.

Dean of Health Science Instruction Tonya Vaughn said that this event will be an exceptional interprofessional education opportunity. “IEO is a new emphasis area in healthcare education. The goal of these efforts is to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that result in interprofessional team behaviors and competence. The end result will be to foster collaboration and appreciation for the various healthcare roles to improve the overall quality of care.”

## ICC selects Kyle Davis as William Winter Scholar

### Staff Reports

Kyle Davis of Fulton, choir director/music instructor, has been selected as Itawamba Community College's William Winter Scholar for 2024.

He will be among statewide recipients honored during opening and closing ceremonies at the 35th Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 22-24.

Davis joined the ICC family in fall 2018. Before his appointment, he served as the music director, vocal coach and instructor for the University of Alabama's Department of Theatre and Dance.

He earned the bachelor's degree from Blue Mountain Christian University and the master's degree from the University of Mississippi and is scheduled to receive the doctoral degree from William Carey University this summer.

Davis's honors and awards include the Ed Ludlow Alumni Award for Servant Leadership in Music, Linda Berry Music Award and Purser Speech Award, all from Blue Mountain Christian

University; the Outstanding Faculty Award from Alpha Psi Omega at the University of Alabama; Target Award for Most Outstanding Teacher in the South Tippah County School District; and the



**Kyle Davis**

Most Outstanding Graduate Singer Award and Most Outstanding Opera Singer Award from the University of Mississippi.

Davis, who is the music director at the First United Methodist Church of Pontotoc, is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and the

American Choral Directors Association.

Among his musical performances include singing with the North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and Mississippi, Arkansas and Nashville Symphonies. He also sang for President Barak Obama at the White House and had the opportunity to world premiere the Opera Hamlet by Nancy de Vate in Prague, Czech Republic.

Davis and his wife, Kala, have one child.

The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration is one of the state's most significant annual conferences devoted to literature, history, film and culture. It is cosponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the city of Natchez, the Adams County Board of Supervisors, Visit Natchez, Mississippi Arts Commission, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Mississippi Humanities Council and The National Park Service. This year's theme is “Rites, Rituals and Religion in the Deep South.”

**getinvolved@iccms.edu**

## Want To Know More?

### FULTON CAMPUS

Information on	Contact
Academic Honors	Admissions
Activities Calendar	V.P. of Student Services
Admissions/Records	Admissions
Advanced Placement	V.P. of Instructional Services
Athletics	Athletic Director
Band	Band Director
Books/Supplies	Bookstore
Career Planning	Adviser/Advising Center
Car Registration Decals	Campus Police
Change of Adviser/Major	Advising Center
Change in Curriculum	Adviser/Student Affairs
Counseling	Student Affairs
Counseling (Personal)	V.P. of Student Services
Course Placement	V.P. of Instructional Services
Evaluation of Credits	Admissions
Examinations	Instructor
Faculty Office Hours	Instructor
Graduation Req.	Admissions
I.D. Cards	Student Affairs
Intramurals/Activities	Coor. of Student Activities
Library	Director of Libraries
Log-Ins/PINs	TIS Help Desk
Parking	Campus Police
Part-Time Jobs	Student Affairs
Placement Testing	Student Affairs
Publicity/Publications	Community Relations
Registration	Admissions
Schedule Changes	Adviser
Schedule Planning	Adviser
Scholarships	Financial Aid
Student Aid/Work Study	Financial Aid
Student Government	Coor. of Student Activities
Student Organizations	Sponsors
Summer School	Student Affairs
Testing (Career)	Career Center
Transcripts	Admissions
Tuition, Fees, Deferrals	Business office
Use of Campus Property	V.P. of Student Services
Veterans Affairs	Financial Aid

### TUPELO CAMPUS

Admissions/Records	Student Affairs
Advanced Placement Credit	V.P. of Instructional Services
Books and Supplies	Bookstore
Career Planning	Adviser/Career Center
Car Registration/Decals	Campus Police
Counseling	Student Affairs
Evaluation of Credits	Admissions
I.D. Cards	Student Affairs
Job Placement	Career Center
Library	Library
Log-Ins/PINs	TIS Help Desk
Parking	Campus Police
Registration/Early-Reg	Student Affairs
Schedule Planning	Student Affairs
Scholarships	Financial Aid
Student Activities	Student Affairs
Student Aid	Financial Aid
Student Government	Coor. of Student Activities
Transcripts	Student Affairs
Tuition and Fees	Business office
Veterans Affairs	Financial Aid

### BELDEN CENTER

Adult Ed./High School Equivalency	Audra Perry
Career Education	Dylan Baldwin
Continuing Education	Josh Gammill
WIOA	Brad Gates
Workforce	Barry Emison

**Contact information available  
at [www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu)  
by clicking on the  
area of interest or by searching  
the college directory  
at the same location.**

## Vote tomorrow for Mr., Miss ICC

### Staff Reports

Students will select one male and one female to represent ICC tomorrow as Mr. and Miss Itawamba Community College.

The finalists are

### Mr. Itawamba Community College

Will Gibson

Hayes Merritt

Whitt Willis

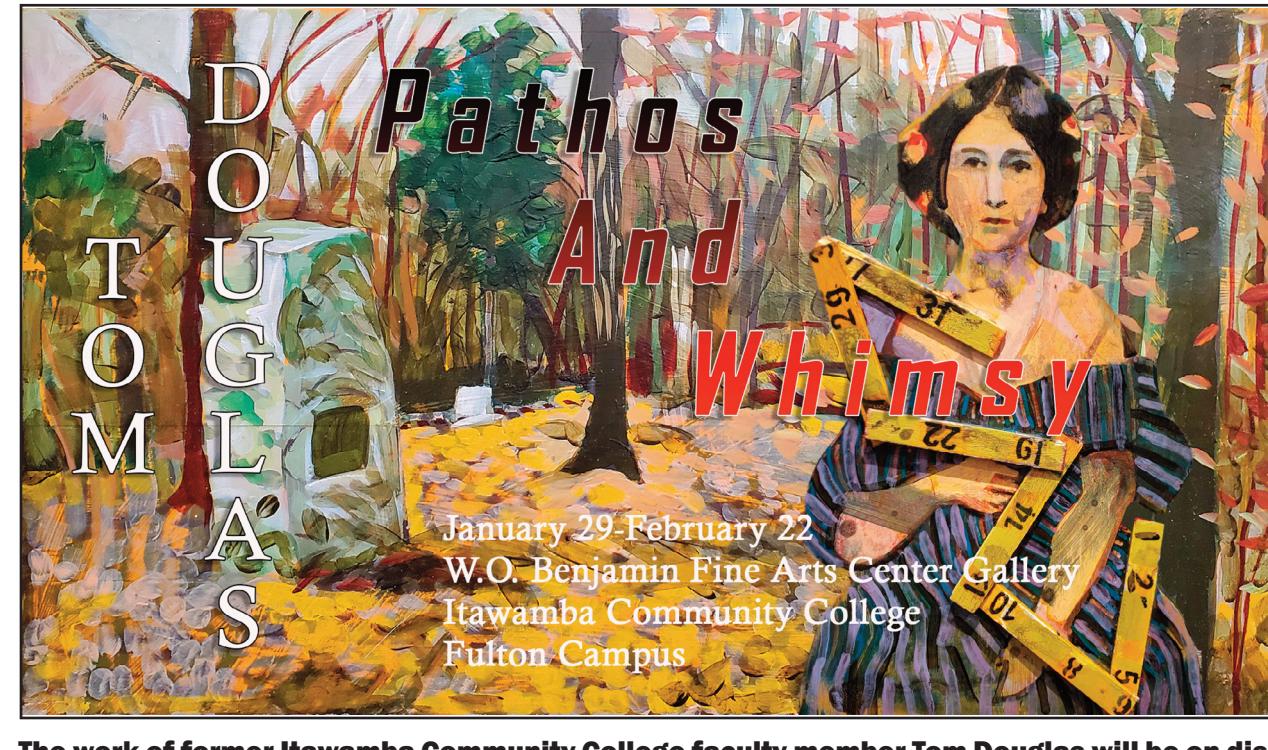
### Miss Itawamba Community College

Anna Beth Brown

Kate Gann

Emma Mask

Voting will begin at 8 a.m. and continue through 3 p.m., Feb. 13. The winners will be announced via email.



**The work of former Itawamba Community College faculty member Tom Douglas will be on display in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center gallery at the Fulton Campus through Feb. 22.**

## Tom Douglas's work now on display in gallery

### Staff Reports

Recent works by Fulton resident Tom Douglas will be on display through Feb. 22 in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center gallery at the Itawamba Community College Fulton Campus.

The exhibition, which is entitled *Pathos and Whimsy*, includes

landscapes of Shiloh National Batt-

tlefield, which is on the route to

Douglas's native home in Tennessee. His intent is for the work to document curiosity and layered investigation.

Douglas was a member of ICC's art faculty from 1983 until he re-

tired in 2013.

Gallery hours are from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. except on days that the college is closed.

For more information, contact Shawn Whittington at [eswhittington@iccms.edu](mailto:eswhittington@iccms.edu) or call (662) 862-8301.

## ICC Films great option for the student experience

### KENNA GRANT

#### Chieftain Staff

One academic group at Itawamba Community College could open doors to a red-carpet profession.

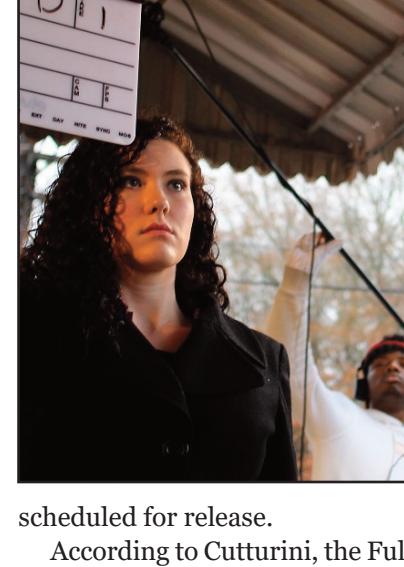
The skills learned in ICC Films can be transferred to a professional career in the film industry, according to sponsor Morgan Cuttrini.

"Many of our former members work in the film industry in North Mississippi, and some former students have moved to Atlanta to work as actors, she said. "Most businesses need people to create digital content for their marketing department, and students in ICC Films can learn the basics of creating promotional videos, interviews, etc. for businesses."

Cuttrini said that many of her students have pursued a career in film, such as Caleb Hall, who graduated from ICC a few years ago. He works as a gaffer (lighting specialist) in the film industry. Additional former students include Justin Gary who does drone camera work for many different organizations, including Netflix. James Puckett now works for WTVA in Tupelo, and many other students are independent film producers in the area.

"Our latest project with professionals is a featured film entitled 'Mississippi Scholar,' which will premier in New Jersey in April. It will be screened in Mississippi this summer," Cuttrini said.

Big and exciting things are happening in ICC Films, according to Cuttrini. Two short videos are



scheduled for release.

According to Cuttrini, the Fulton Campus students are working on a short video that tells the life of a resident of Itawamba Crossroads Ranch - a nonprofit organization for special needs adults. The production is scheduled to screen at its fundraiser on Feb. 24, and video footage will be released on their YouTube channel.

Tupelo Campus students are currently recording a podcast about what life is like as a student living on a college campus, highlighting challenges such as mental health. The first episode of the production is scheduled to air in March.

Established in 2009, ICC Films helps students learn the art of film production. Active participants are known for their involvement in film events at the College and film screenings.

Each year, students create and film short stories and collaborate on one group film, Cuttrini noted. Students interested in pursuing careers in the

film industry learn many skills that encompass working the camera, sound equipment and lights. Veteran students are able to gain first-hand knowledge on what it means to work as a screenwriter, director or filmmaker.

With many success stories combined with first-hand knowledge and hands-on experience, ICC Films is just one of ICC's many student opportunities that aid in creating a rich college experience for all students. In addition to the rigorous learning experience, students also have the chance to create lifetime friendships and memories, Cuttrini said. These students even have the opportunity to work with professionals. "I loved watching my students work with several Hollywood actors like Patrick Gallagher (from *Night at the Museum*), Obba Babatundé (from *The Temptations* and *SWAT*), Sonny Marinelli (from *Entourage*), among others," Cuttrini said.

For those interested in participating in ICC Films, there are no membership requirements. Students also have the chance to participate in the Film Production class, which began in 2014. In place of scholarships, Film Club members can seek monetary gains from working in film productions around the community.

Cuttrini said that any student enrolled at ICC can get a taste of what working in film is like. "All ICC students may work on our film projects."

For more information, email [mcscuttrini@iccms.edu](mailto:mcscuttrini@iccms.edu).



**Top and bottom -  
Members of ICC  
Films work on a  
project in these file  
photos.**



**Ichabod Crane, played by Adam Harmon, is about to punish one of his pupils, Judith, until he remembers that his mother is having him over for supper - a country ham with all of the trimmings. - Photos furnished.**

## **"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" ICC presents dinner theatre**

### *Staff Reports*

Itawamba Community College has selected the cast and crew for its spring production, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," which will be Mar. 21 and 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center auditorium at the Fulton Campus.

Cast members are Jacob Evans, Spencer Griffie, both of Amory; Holly Foster of Marietta; Adam Harmon of Nettleton; Ron Jenkins, Kyla Ratliff, both of Smithville; and Alexis Walker of Tupelo. Crew members are Dylan Christian of Amory; Skylar Sewell of Biloxi; Joey White of Houston; Kassandra Ramirez of Pontotoc; and Jimmy K. Humphries of Vina, Ala.

"Sleepy Hollow" is a quiet little town where nothing much happens until Ichabod



**Dylan Christian, sound technician, and Joey White, stage manager, look over their scripts.**

Crane, the new schoolteacher comes to town. For once in his life, the burly and boisterous Brom Bones faces competition. Will his love interest, Katrina Van Tassel (the only daughter of a wealthy farmer) choose the handsome Brom Bones, or will she wed the learned man of letters, Ichabod Crane?

"Audience members are in for a topsy-turvy ride filled with laughter, spooks, goblins, a barking dog, a headless horseman and a runaway horse," said director Dr. Laurie McBride. "Join us for this adventurous retelling of an American classic by Washington

ton Irving."

"When I was looking for a spring play, I luckily happened upon one of my favorites from school days, Washington Irving's The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," according to McBride. "The retelling by Kathryn Schultz Miller is a delightful, fast-

paced story with plenty of twists and turns. Along the way, audiences will visit a tavern, schoolhouse, singing lesson, farmhouse, marketplace and a scary walk through a covered bridge. As Miller reminds us, this is a 'friendly' play, not to be taken too seriously. Be prepared for a fun evening!"

Two ticket options are available, dinner theatre (\$22) or play-only (\$5). Dinner theatre tickets are available for purchase at [www.icc.edu/sleepyhollow](http://www.icc.edu/sleepyhollow), and tickets for the show only may be purchased at the door beginning at 7 p.m. each night. Admission to the play only is free for students, faculty and staff who have a valid ICC I.D.

For more information, email [lsmcbride@icc.ms.edu](mailto:lsmcbride@icc.ms.edu).

## **ICC schedules Orientation sessions for 2024 spring, summer enrollees**

### *Staff Reports*

Itawamba Community College has scheduled orientation sessions for students who plan to enroll for the 2024 summer and fall semesters.

Recent high school graduates are required to participate in one of the sessions, which are scheduled for Apr. 10 (Honors), Apr. 19, Apr. 26, June 11, June 12, July 10, July 11, all at 1 p.m. at the Fulton Campus; Apr. 19, Apr. 26, June 11, June 12, July 10, July 11, all at 8:30 a.m. at the Fulton Campus and June 13, July 19, both at 1 p.m. at the Tupelo Campus. Students can attend a session regardless of the location they plan to attend. However, all students, including adult learners are invited.

"Among the advantages of attending an orientation session are schedul-



ing classes early and choosing from a wide variety of options, including days, times and instructors and possi-

bly completing the process before graduation from high school," said Michael Holloway, director of Recruit-

ment and Orientation. "Participants will have an opportunity to connect with other new students as well as to learn more about student life at ICC. The sessions will also enable adult learners to meet with an adviser and to make the transition to college less intimidating."

Prior to registration, students must have submitted an application for admission, and for the honors session, participants must provide a copy of the ACT score. Holloway said that since registration is limited, participants should sign up as soon as possible. Registration is now live.

To register, students should access <http://www.icc.edu/Orientation>.

For more information, call (662) 862-8000 or email [orientation@icc.edu](mailto:orientation@icc.edu).

# **The BEST start here!!**

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 13

**PTK-Tupelo Chapter Meeting**  
12:15 p.m.  
**Student Support Center 123G**

### FEBRUARY 15

**ICC Most Beautiful Pageant**  
6 p.m.  
**W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center**

### FEBRUARY 20

**Basketball Theme Night**  
Pink Out  
5:30 p.m.  
**Davis Event Center - Fulton**

### FEBRUARY 26

**Summer 2024 and Fall 2024 Class Schedule available**

**Basketball Theme Night - Beat Northwest White Out**  
5:30 p.m.  
**Davis Event Center - Fulton**

### FEBRUARY 28

**Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) surveys available**

### MARCH 1

**Last day to register to participate in Commencement**

### MARCH 4

**Basketball Theme Night**  
Sophomore Night  
Wear ICC colors!  
**Davis Event Center - Fulton**

### MARCH 5

**Intramural Disc Golf**

### MARCH 11-15

**Spring Break for students and employees**

### MARCH 19

**Intramural Pickleball**  
Pickleball Courts

**PTK-Tupelo Chapter Meeting**  
**Student Support Center 123G**  
12:15 p.m.

### MARCH 29, April 1

**Holiday for Students and Employees**

### APRIL 3

**Intramural Flag Football**  
Practice Football Field - Fulton

### APRIL 15

**All-American Marching Band Drumline Virtual Audition Deadline**

### APRIL 16

**Phi Theta Kappa - Tupelo Chapter Meeting**  
**Student Support Center Presentation Room (123 G)**

12:15 p.m.

### APRIL 29

**Student Awards of Distinction**  
**W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center**

6 p.m.

NEWS

## ICC Foundation, Inc. officers begin 2024 term

Officers of Itawamba Community College's Foundation Board of Directors have begun their 2024 term.

They include Ronnie Boozer of Aberdeen; Julie Randle, Jerry Reese, both of Amory; Tommy Chamblee, Dr. Jason Digby, both of Fulton, vice chair Rayburn Parks of Houston; Beth Cleveland of Kingwood, Tex.; chair Buddy Montgomery, immediate past president Jerry Robbins, Chuck Howell, all of Pontotoc; Teresa Hooker of Thaxton; secretary Mark Burleson, Juanita Floyd, Rubye Del

Harden, Ernest Joyner, Buzzy Mize and Dr. Dick White, all of Tupelo.

College representatives are Dr. Jay Allen, President; and treasurer Sandi South, vice president of Business Services, both of Fulton; Jim Ingram of Tupelo, director of the ICC Foundation, Inc. and Michael Upton, director of Advancement.

The ICC Foundation, Inc. works to secure vital support for ongoing college programs and activities. - *Staff Reports*

## Nominations needed for Alumni awards

Nominations are being accepted through Apr. 1 for Itawamba Community College's 2024 Alumnus of the Year, Athletic Hall of Fame, Distinguished Service Award and Young Alumnus of the Year. Those selected will be honored during homecoming activities this fall at the Fulton Campus.

Criteria for selection for Alumnus of the Year include successful completion of at least one semester as a full-time student at ICC five years prior to the current year as well as merit and achievement which have brought fame and honor to either his/her community or ICC.

ICC's Athletic Hall of Fame honors former athletes, coaches or individuals who have excelled or made major contributions to inter-

collegiate athletics while attending or employed by ICC. They must have been out of school at least 10 years. Accomplishments and support of ICC also may be considered.

The Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to ICC is open to an individual, group or organization that has made substantial, outstanding and consistent contribution to the college through tangible or intangible gifts or deeds. Nominations should include civic and professional accomplishments as well as ICC involvement. Nominees should demonstrate a significant contribution to their community through service, support and/or volunteerism; display high levels of integrity as well as a strong connec-

tion to ICC (attending events, financial support, vocal support, children/family who attend ICC).

The Young Alumnus of the Year recognizes an individual under the age of 40 who has attained significant professional, personal or community success. Nominees must be under the age of 40 at the time of nomination. This award is based on a significant record of career achievements and a promise for future professional success.

Nominees must show outstanding work in their chosen field of endeavor and must have attended ICC for at least one semester. Also included are civic and professional accomplishments as well as ICC involvement.

For more information, email [maupton@iccms.edu](mailto:maupton@iccms.edu).



**Senior College**  
**Musician Dale Rushing of the Rust Bucket Roadies kicks off ICC's Senior College at the Belden Center last Tuesday.**

## ICC ranks among state leaders in enrollment increase

Itawamba Community College ranks among the leaders in the state in full-time enrollment for the spring semester.

Spring enrollment figures indicate 4,476 at the end of the 10-day reporting period.

The increase can be attributed to multiple factors, according to ICC President Dr. Jay Allen, including the addition of state-of-the-art Magnolia Hall for honors students and student leaders, an enhanced emphasis on activities, expanded free personal orientation sessions and the transition to the schools of approach to enable student connections both to their field of study and their peers.

"This is very exciting news," Allen said. "The increase in the

number of students that ICC is serving is significant because we have additional opportunities to provide a solid educational background and the best start for those in our five-county district and beyond. Because of the dedication of ICC's faculty and staff, our Board of Trustees and external funding support, we continue to provide an affordable and quality option, which has been documented in the naming of ICC as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation for 2025, 2023 (one of 25 semifinalists), 2021, 2019, 2017, 2015 and 2013). In addition, the work of our recruiters, enrollment services and community relations team has contributed to this consistent increase in enrollment."

In comparison to all other higher education options in the state, both public and private, ICC has the second lowest cost of tuition and fees combined. While the updated enrollment figures include online, academic and career education classes, it does not include workforce totals, which are not measured on a semester basis, Allen said.

He also noted that the data from the Institutions of Higher Learning shows that ICC produces graduates that when they attend any of the state's eight universities, they generate the highest number of bachelor's degrees by transfer students. They also graduate with a higher GPA than those who start ed at the university.

## FYI

### MAKE A NOTE OF IT

#### JUST A REMINDER...

#### Review lockdown procedures

ICC's faculty, staff and students are urged to review campus lockdown procedures.

"The procedures are meant to be very simple because at the point of a lockdown, the major concern is the safety of all of the individuals in the campus community," said Dr. Brad Boggs, vice president of student services.

Notifications will be communicated via ICC ALERT, email and the Emergency Information Web page.

Upon notification of campus lockdown, everyone must react immediately.

The procedures include

- 1) Lock all doors and windows.
- 2) Close all blinds.
- 3) Turn off lights.
- 4) Use room furnishings to barricade doors and as protection.

5) Everyone should sit on the floor, away from doors and windows.

6) Make no noise.

7) Remain in lockdown until it is cleared with a notice via ICC ALERT or the police/administrator gives to ALL CLEAR code.

In addition, these are procedures in the event of severe weather conditions or evacuation.

Individuals should check ICC's website, [www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu), for information. It's located under Campus Safety on the home page.

#### Sign up for ICC ALERT

ICC provides a mass notification system called ICC ALERT.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in the free service.



ICC ALERT has been utilized for inclement weather situations when classes and offices were closed due to snow and icing conditions and when storms threatened

the area.

To sign up to receive emergency messages through ICC ALERT: 1) Log on to the myTribe portal using your name and password; 2) Click ICC ALERT system in the link section on the bottom right; 3) Log in with your same username and password as myTribe to add/update your information.

For assistance with technical issues, contact the TIS Help Desk at (662) 862-8295 or via email at [helpdesk@iccms.edu](mailto:helpdesk@iccms.edu).

#### Litter-free

Everyone is reminded to use trash receptacles for litter. It's up to all of us to show our pride by ensuring that all three locations are litter-free.

#### No noise

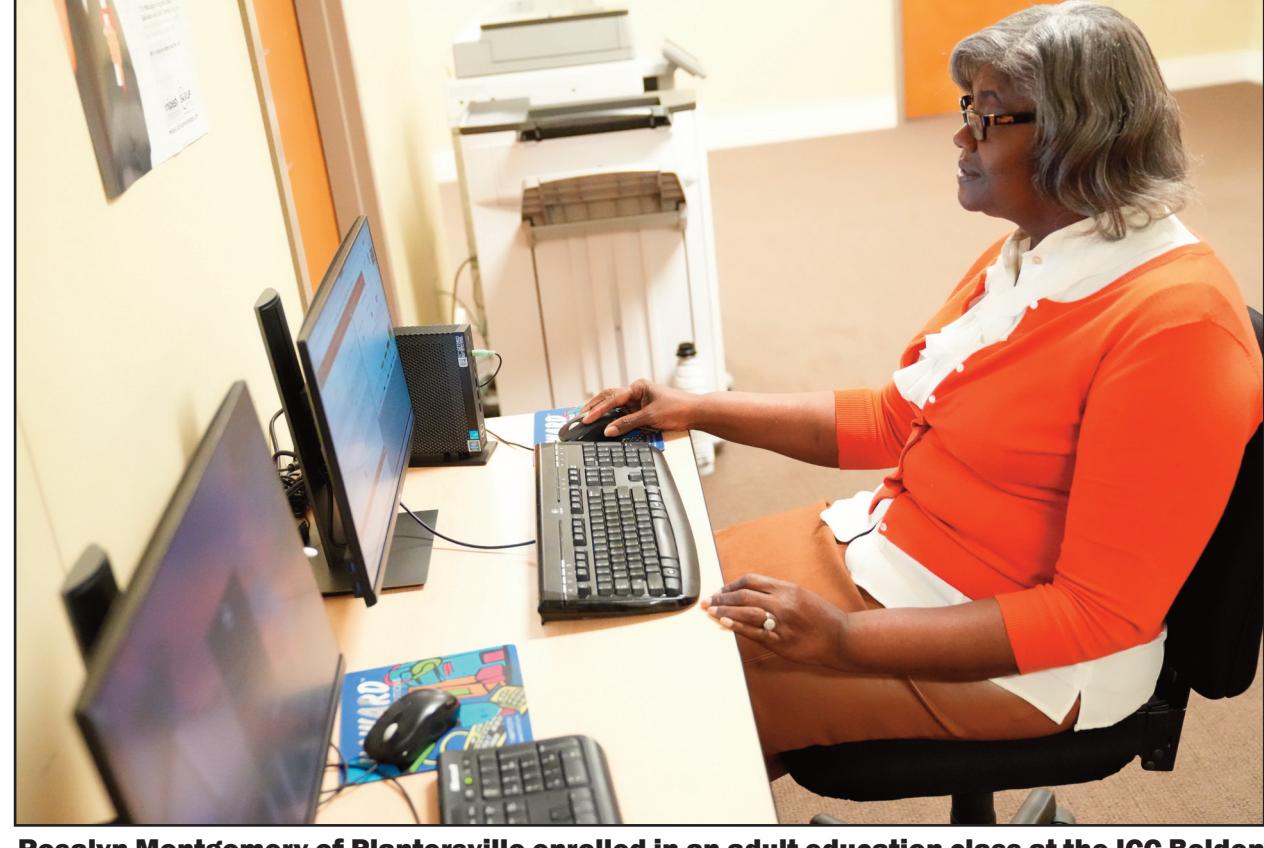
Unnecessary noise is banned at Itawamba Community College, including loud music, yelling and screaming.

Students who are found guilty of noise violations will be fined, and the fine will double with each successive violation.

#### Campus Police

**ICC-Belden...662.687.2752**  
**ICC-Fulton...662.687.2750**  
**ICC-Tupelo...662.687.2751**

**For more information about ICC emergency procedures...**  
[www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu)



**Rosalyn Montgomery of Plantersville enrolled in an adult education class at the ICC Belden Center to work toward earning her high school equivalency diploma.**

## Rosalyn Montgomery earns high school equivalency diploma at ICC at the age of 68

#### Staff Reports

The educational journey of Rosalyn Montgomery of Plantersville took a bit longer than she expected.

In fact, she just earned her high school equivalency diploma at Itawamba Community College at the age of 68, less than a month after her birthday.

#### PASSED ON FIRST TRY

She passed the GED test on the first try as a result of her enrolling in an adult education class at the ICC Belden Center. "I wanted to complete something I started. I wanted to be a role model and show people that if you put in the time and work, you will be victorious," she emphasized. "They had the tools I needed to be successful, and they had the teachers the Lord put here to help."

#### DROPOUT AT AGE 12

Montgomery dropped out of school when she was 12 to help at home. She cleaned, cooked and "kept out of trouble," she said. When she was 18, she left home to work at Long's Laundry. Later, she welded fans and guards. For 15 years, she worked as a housekeeper at the Ramada Inn in Tupelo, and subsequently in environmental services at the North Mississippi Medical Center, where she retired in October 2017 after 25 years.

In 1976, she married James

Allen Montgomery, a union that produced three children. They dated only three weeks before they were engaged.

#### AND MORE OBSTACLES

Age wasn't the only obstacle for Montgomery in the pursuit of her high school diploma. When she worked at the Ramada Inn, she had to walk to the babysitter to leave her daughter. "I put a smile on my face, left my problems at the fence and picked them up in the afternoon," Montgomery recalled. She didn't obtain her driver's license until she was 35.

In the late 1970s, the Montgomerys had three children, and their house burned at Christmas. They had to leave and moved to the projects, but their problems, or opportunities as Montgomery would say, didn't stop there. In the late 1980s, they lived in a bad location. "My kids couldn't go out. I prayed for a better place. We didn't qualify for a loan, so the social worker at Tupelo Housing Authority encouraged us to sign up for low-income housing." In 1992, the Montgomerys moved after their application was approved, and she became the first of her siblings to own their own house.

#### GOOD ADVICE

She has advice for those thinking about enrolling in adult education to achieve their credential, no matter how many years it's

been. "Don't be afraid to try to walk by faith, not by sight. When things seem hard, God will put someone in your life to encourage you. I am so blessed that I passed. I only needed a score of 8, but I passed with a 12. It is important to have people who are positive in your circle, people to call to pray for you. I want to inspire other students who have not experienced life yet. My advice, listen and respect teachers. You have a whole life ahead of you, get out and do something with your life!"

#### A NEW BEGINNING

Montgomery called her diploma "a new beginning" that has changed her life. She is also the first of her siblings to achieve that milestone. "Thank God for this success that will continue to make me a role model for my children and grandchildren. My kids have been encouraging, and they are so proud."

As for now, Montgomery is helping her daughter with a daycare in Nettleton and is using her talents in a new direction, interior decorating.

She said that she has a dream board and is checking off all of the items. "God's love and peace, Enlarge my territory, Pay off house." But, she left off one of the items that it's taken her almost a lifetime to achieve...Earn my high school diploma...Check!

## ICC selects winners

### for MCCCWA Creative Writing Competition

#### Staff Reports

The winners of ICC's creative writing competition have been selected, and they will be honored this spring at the Sigma Kappa Delta induction ceremony.

They include

**Drama** - Luke Nichols of Tupelo, first, for "Untitled;" Blake Ligon of Smithville, second, for "Happy Anniversary;"

**Essay** - James Ross

of Tupelo, first for

"Analysis of the Portrayal of Death in the Poem 'Because I Could not Stop for Death' by Emily Dickinson; Carmen Birmingham of Mooreville, second for

"Anne Bradstreet's Poems Upon a Closer Look;"

**Poetry** - Anna Thomas of Pontotoc, first, for "Coin Purse;" and Alexandria Christian of Mooreville, second for

"Counting Stars;"

**Short Story** - Tytianna Brooks of Okolona, first for "Don't Go;" and Lauren Paul of Saltillo, second for "To Everything I Had Once Loved."

The first, second and third place and any honorable mention winners will be announced via email on Mar. 22.

All winners will receive certificates and a copy of "Writer," which

publishes the student winners, at the in-person MCCCWA Conference, Apr. 12.

The conference will be hosted at Hinds Community College in the George Wynne Hall on the Rankin Campus.

At the conference, the first, second and third place winners will receive monetary prizes of \$100, \$60 and \$40, respectively.

# ICC...The BEST!



**'Time Capsule', CenterStage's spring concert, will incorporate both old and new music to provide a sense of societal change.**

## *CenterStage plans Apr. 24 concert*

**SHELBY FRANKS**

*Chieftain Staff*

The stage is set as ICC's CenterStage gears up for its upcoming production.

Its spring performance, "Time Capsule," will be Apr. 24.

This show incorporates a mix of old music with new music to create a sense of traveling through time to get a sense of how we as a society have changed," said one of CenterStage's directors, Christy Griffith.

CenterStage is a vocal and music performance group, currently including 16 cast, 13 band and 12 crew members.

Students can get involved in ac-

tivities such as costuming, prop and set design, computer skills, script writing and much more, Griffith said. "I hope students can take important lessons that they have learned from CenterStage and apply them to their everyday lives."

CenterStage meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Anyone can join, even without any performing experience, Griffith noted. Audition information for the cast is listed on the ICC website, [www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu), and usually consists of a prepared piece and a short choreography piece. There are also both crew and cast positions.



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Complete 2 Compete (C2C) is a state program designed to help Mississippi adults complete their college degrees and create a brighter future.



**ITAWAMBA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Itawamba Community College is an open admission, comprehensive, publicly supported two-year institution primarily serving Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe and Pontotoc counties, while also being responsive to the instructional and economic development needs of the region.

Itawamba Community College fulfills its mission through 1) College-parallel, technical and career programs to prepare students to transfer or enter the workforce; 2) Continuing education and workforce pathways for individuals striving for professional growth or personal enrichment; 3) Strategic partnerships to provide student opportunities, meet business and industry needs and promote economic development; 4) Adult education programs committed to increasing the literacy level of the adult population, providing self-improvement opportunities, workforce readiness and/or high school equivalency; 5) Resources, including financial, physical and technological to advance educational purpose as well as traditional and online instructional services, student support services and business management; 6) Recruitment and employment of qualified personnel as well as provide ongoing opportunities for leadership growth and success in educational, career and personal goals.

Candidates for admission to academic and career education programs may be admitted by diploma - students are required to present an official transcript from a high school accredited by the appropriate state or regional accreditation association; by completing the appropriate number of Carnegie units; by successfully completing an acceptable high school equivalency test - students are required to have an official copy of the high school equivalency transcript mailed to the Director of Admissions; by advanced standing (college transfer students). Students graduating without a regular diploma (Occupational Diploma or Special Education Diploma) must successfully complete an acceptable high school equivalency test or qualify under a Mississippi Ability to Benefit State Process in order to be eligible for admission to Itawamba Community College. Some career education programs may have selective criteria for admission.

Itawamba Community College is an equal opportunity institution. The College strictly prohibits discrimination in its educational programs and activities, employment practices and admissions processes on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ethnicity, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran or other status protected by applicable law. For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271 or email [TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu](mailto>TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu).

In compliance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Itawamba Community College makes available its curricular and extracurricular programs and its facilities to every qualified person regardless of race, sex, color, creed, national origin or disability.

Itawamba Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Community Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.670.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Itawamba Community College.

**[www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu)  
662.862.8000**

**Get  
involved  
@  
ICC  
TODAY!!**

**#thebeststarthere**



**The 2024-25 Itawamba Community College Leadership Development Institute participants include front, from left, Madison Robinson, Audra Perry, Alicia Thornton, Kaitlyn Stanfield, Stacey Loden, Lindsey Patterson; back, Jason Dickinson, Rachel Steele, Adam Denton, Caleb Ramey, Jason Williams and Lee Adams. The LDI is administered by the office of the President. "LDI is intended to increase the field of upcoming leaders by providing ICC employees with a structured opportunity to enhance their leadership skills through a program of self-assessment, skill development and personal and professional growth," according to Tyler Camp, chief of staff and special assistant to the President. "LDI fosters a spirit of collaboration, enhances the concept of shared leadership and provides networking opportunities."**

## 12 ICC faculty, staff chosen to participate in LDI

### Staff Reports

Twelve members of Itawamba Community College's faculty and staff have been selected to participate in its Leadership Development Institute for 2024-25.

They include Lindsey Patterson, Natural Science instructor/eLearning A&P lead and A&P department chair, and Madison Robinson, recruiter, both of Amory; Audra Perry of Belden, Adult Education director; Lee Adams, Bookstore manager, Kaitlyn Stanfield, Housing and Residence Life coordinator, and Rachel Steele, director of Admissions/Registrar, all of Fulton; Jason Dickinson, Campus Police chief, and Jason Williams, Transportation director, both of Mantachie; Caleb Ramey of Red Bay, Ala., systems administrator; Adam Denton of Saltillo, Respiratory Therapy program director; Stacey Loden, Workforce accountability and information specialist, and Alicia Thornton, Surgical Technology program director, both of Tupelo.

### LEE ADAMS

Adams, who joined the ICC family in 2014, previously served as assistant Sports Information director. His honors include more than 70 College Public Relations Association of Mississippi awards and one grand award since 2014 and recipient of the 2021 ICC Meritorious award. He earned the associate's degree from ICC in 2012. Adams and his wife, Morgan, have two children.

### ADAM DENTON

Denton served as director of clinical education for Respiratory Therapy at ICC from 2006-16. He earned the associate's degree in Respiratory Therapy from ICC in 2001, and the bachelor's degree in Health Sciences from the University of Mississippi

Medical Center in 2008. He received the NISOD Excellence Award in 2016. Denton and his wife, Noelle, have three children.

### JASON DICKINSON

Dickinson previously served as chief investigator with the Itawamba County Sheriff's office before joining the ICC family in 2021. He earned A.A.S. degrees in both agribusiness (1995) and law enforcement (2017) from ICC. Dickinson's honors include president of the Mississippi Police Chief College Association and certifications in law enforcement, state and national instructor, SWAT operator, K-9 bomb handler, firearms instruction, state investigator, emergency driving instructor and active shooter instructor. He and his wife, Amanda, have two children.

### STACEY LODEN

Loden joined the ICC family in 2017 as a SNAP E&T pilot program Career Navigator. Her educational background includes the associate's degree from ICC and the bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi. Loden's honors are the Jim Ingram Community Leadership Institute Class of 2013 and NEWMS Success Skills graduate in 2018. She is a member of the First Baptist Church in Tupelo, AAAI/ISMA certified cycling instructor and BLS CPR instructor. Loden and her husband, Justin, are the parents of one child.

### LINDSEY PATTERSON

Patterson served as an adjunct instructor at ICC from 2015-16. She earned the associate's degree from ICC in 2006, bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi in 2010 and the master's degree from the University of West Alabama in 2015. Her honors include Moody Institute Trust Fund recipient in 2023. She

and her husband, Linzy, have three children.

### AUDRA PERRY

Perry, who is a native of Pontotoc, served for 12 years at Mississippi Delta Community College before she joined the ICC family in 2022. Her educational background includes the associate's degree from ICC in 2006 and master's degrees from Mississippi State University in 2008 and Auburn University in 2011. She is currently working toward her doctoral degree from Delta State University. Perry's honors are Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy graduate, Education Policy Fellowship Program Fellow, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Certified Practitioner and Employee of the Month at Mississippi Delta. She and her husband, Hunter, have two children.

### CALEB RAMEY

Ramey began his employment at ICC in 2010 at the Telecommunications and Information Services helpdesk. He earned the associate's degree at ICC and the bachelor's degree from the University of North Alabama where he is expected to receive the masters of professional studies degree in December. His honors include a five-year service award from Acco Brands. Ramey and his wife, Alaina, have two children.

### MADISON ROBINSON

Robinson joined the ICC family in 2022. Her educational background includes the associate's degree from ICC in 2020 and the bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University in 2022. As a student at ICC, she won multiple awards from the Mississippi Press Association and the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi. She and her husband, Houston Todd Robinson, are expect-

ing their first child in June.

### KAITLYN STANFIELD

Stanfield earned the bachelor's degree from Lipscomb University in 2016 and the master's degree from the University of North Alabama in 2018. She joined the ICC family in 2020 as residence hall director for Monroe Annex and Monroe Hall and subsequently administrative assistant to the vice president of Student Services and the director of Housing.

### RACHEL STEELE

Steele's educational background includes the bachelor's degree from Central Baptist College and the master's degree from Arkansas Tech University. Her previous positions at ICC beginning in 2019 include academic mentor and Instructional Support Services coordinator. She and her husband, Jake, are the parents of two children.

### ALICIA THORNTON

Thornton, who joined the ICC family in 2022, was surgical first assistant at Baptist Golden Triangle for 10 years and program director at East Mississippi Community College for two years. She earned both the Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied Science degrees from ICC and the bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Thornton's honors include Black History Health and Wellness award and member of the AST Mississippi State Assembly Board of Directors. She and her husband, Jirmychael, have two children.

### JASON WILLIAMS

Williams, who has been employed at ICC since 2023, earned the associate's degree from ICC in 1995. He and his wife, Ruth Ann, are the parents of two children.

# ICC Athletics on the Move

## CAMPUS SPORTS

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ICC head men's basketball coach Grant Pate, left, will turn over coaching duties to his assistant, Darrian Wilson, at the end of the season.

## Pate to turn over men's basketball coaching reins to Wilson

### Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College men's basketball coach Grant Pate will step down at the end of the 2023-24 season, and current assistant coach Darrian Wilson will take over the duties.

Pate is in the middle of his 12th season leading the Indians basketball program.

"It wasn't an easy decision," Pate said. "ICC is family and has been a great place to work and watch my family grow over the past 12 years. I feel the time is right for me to hand over the reins to the next head coach for them to be able to build on our successes and take the program to the next level."

The Indians are 136-128 since Pate took over the program in 2013. He led the Indians to the 2014 division and conference championships while being named the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Coach of the Year.

Since conference realignment during the 2020-21 season, the Indians have qualified for postseason play three straight years and advanced to the regional quarterfinals last season. Pate was selected to coach the North squad during the 2018 MACJC All-Star game.

"We appreciate coach Pate and everything he has done for the basketball program and the college," said ICC Athletic Director Chad Case. "He truly cares about his players and their success away from the basketball. That shows in how many players have earned a degree and had opportunities to continue their education through basketball after their time here at ICC."

Under Pate's direction, 96 percent of his players have graduated, and 41 players have signed with four-year programs, nearly half of those moving on to the NJCAA Division I level.

Pate's coaching career began as a graduate assistant at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Ouachita Baptist University. In 1996, he joined Coach Rod Barnes' staff as an administrative assistant at the University of Mississippi and worked his way up to Coordinator of Basketball Operations

and assistant coach before leaving the program in 2006. Pate became the new boys' basketball coach at Tupelo High School in 2008. His career record at the time of the announcement was 232-157.

Wilson, who is entering his second season as an assistant coach of the Indians basketball program, was the head coach for AAU's Mississippi Express Basketball Organization. It is a nonprofit youth program based in Meridian.

"It is an honor and privilege to be the next men's basketball coach at ICC," Wilson said. - **See Pate and Wilson, page fourteen**

## Julie Benneckenstein

### ICC Women's Soccer

*Introducing the first in a series of interviews with ICC student-athletes who have a unique story to tell.*

**Name:** Julia Benneckenstein

**Country:** Liechtenstein

**What is your home country**

**Like:** I grew up in a small country with a lot of mountains and lakes.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy skiing and hiking and spending time with kids. I also worked in a daycare.

**Family Background:** My mom and dad played soccer, and I have one brother who was a soccer player as well.

**How did your journey get you to the United States and to ICC?** It was always my dream to play soccer in



college, and I had an agency to reach out to different schools. I talked with Coach (David) Strother and Coach (Ugo) Galtier, and they helped me from the beginning and I felt very welcome. I felt like ICC was the best

option."

**Cultural Differences:** Food was the biggest one, but overall, just the friendliness and Southern hospitality were also different.

**How did you overcome the challenges:** My soccer teammates always helped me. There was always someone with me no matter what.

**What about your time at ICC?:** I've met people and made friends with people I will remember for the rest of my life."

**What about being away from home?:** "I go home every Christmas and summer breaks. There are periods where it's harder, and those when it's easier. In the beginning, it was hard being away from my family and friends. It's not that easy to communicate with family back home over the phone. I use WhatsApp to communicate."

**MATHAIUS MALLARD**  
Chieftain Staff

**Spotlights**

#RollTribe

## Tribe Talk

ELIJAH COLEMAN

Sports Editor

NIL endorsements, or Name, Image and Likeness endorsements, have become a major issue in sports today. With the recent changes in NCAA rules allowing student-athletes to profit from their own name, image and likeness, many athletes have taken advantage of this opportunity to sign endorsement deals with various companies.

While this may seem like a positive development for student-athletes who have long been denied the right to make money off their own talents, NIL endorsements have also created a host of problems in the world of sports.

One of the biggest issues is the potential for exploitation of young athletes. With the pressure to perform on the field or court, many student-athletes may feel compelled to sign endorsement deals that are not in their best interests to make a quick buck. This can lead to athletes associating themselves with companies that do not align with their personal values or that may compromise their academic or athletic eligibility.

Additionally, the influx of money from NIL endorsements has the potential to create disparities among athletes, with some receiving lucrative deals while others are left struggling to make ends meet. This can create tensions within teams and lead to jealousy and resentment among players.

In other words, the rise of NIL endorsements has the potential to blur the line between amateur and professional sports. With student-athletes now able to profit from their own image, some may prioritize making money over their commitment to their team or their education, potentially leading to a decline in the integrity of college sports, which is why ICC doesn't do NIL agreements because it takes away from the school and the student-athletes' being the best they can be on and off the field or court.

So, most community colleges won't participate in NIL because the endorsements wouldn't be as much.

Overall, while NIL endorsements have provided student-athletes with a valuable opportunity to capitalize on their talents, they have also raised a host of issues within the world of sports. It will be important for athletes, coaches and administrators to work together to establish guidelines and regulations to ensure that NIL endorsements do not overshadow the true purpose of college athletics.

Roll Tribe!



## ICC football adds 19 signees

## Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College head football coach Travis Macon welcomed 19 new players to the ICC family on National Signing Day, Wednesday.

They include

**James Bolton**, wide receiver, Mary G. Montgomery (Ala.) High School;

**Eli Burciaga**, kicker, Corinth High School;

**Coledan Carter**, defensive back,

## West Point High School;

**Tavaris Coles**, wide receiver, McAdory High School (Ala.);

**Tre Gunn**, athlete, Biggersville High School;

**Jeremiah Harris**, linebacker, Quitman High School;

**Douglas Jones**, linebacker, Houston High School;

**Ja'Majah Mayes**, running back, Calhoun City High School;

**Drew Rowsey**, quarterback, Big-

## Kaleb McAllister, athlete, Center

Hill High School;

**Johnathan Morris**, longsnapper, Starkville High School;

**Tyran Mosley**, wide receiver, Kosciusko High School;

**Brady Parkerson**, offensive line, Philadelphia High School;

**Brady Phillips**, offensive line, Clay-Chalkville High School;

**Nathan Shaw**, offensive line, Baldwyn High School;

**Nick Sherman**, wide receiver, Northridge (Ala.) High School;

**Kaleb Shumpert**, wide receiver, New Albany High School;

**Damian Thompson**, athlete, Mars Hill Bible School (Ala.); and

**Jaiden Turnipseed**, wide receiver, Starkville High School.

## gersville High School;

**Nathan Shaw**, offensive line, Baldwyn High School;

**Nick Sherman**, wide receiver, Northridge (Ala.) High School;

**Kaleb Shumpert**, wide receiver, New Albany High School;

**Damian Thompson**, athlete, Mars Hill Bible School (Ala.); and

**Jaiden Turnipseed**, wide receiver, Starkville High School.

## ON THE SCHEDULE

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

02.12	@Hinds	7:30 p.m.	2.26	Northwest	5:30 p.m.	3.19	@Coahoma	1/4 p.m.	3.1	@Northeast	TBD
02.20	Meridian	7:30 p.m.	2.29	@Southwest	5:30 p.m.	3.23	@Pearl River	2/5 p.m.	3.1	@NW Shoals	2 p.m.
2.22	@Gulf Coast	7:30 p.m.	3.4	Co-Lin	5:30 p.m.	3.26	Northeast	3/6 p.m.	3.3	Des Moines, Wallace St.	
2.26	Northwest	7:30 p.m.	3.7	@East Miss.	5:30 p.m.					Jones @ ICC	noon
2.29	@Southwest	7:30 p.m.								Calhoun	1 p.m.
3.4	Co-Lin	7:30 p.m.								Meridian	2 p.m.
3.7	@East Miss.	7:30 p.m.									

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2.12	@Hinds	5:30 p.m.	2.16	@USA	TBA	2.13	@Wallace St.	1 p.m.	3.5	up-to-date
2.20	Meridian	5:30 p.m.	2.20	@Holmes/PR	noon	2.16	So. Suburban/	1 p.m.	3.8	schedules,
2.22	@Gulf Coast	5:30 p.m.	2.24	Snead State	1 p.m.	2.17	Northeast	1 p.m.		LetsGoICC.com.
			2.28	@NW	TBA		So. Suburban/	1 p.m.		
			3.02	@NW Shoals	1/4 p.m.	2.18	Northeast			
			3.05	East Central	5:30 p.m.	2.20	So. Suburban	noon		
			3.13	Holmes	2/5 p.m.	2.22	@Snead State	2 p.m.		
			3.16	Gulf Coast	2/5 p.m.	2.23	Metropolitan			
							@Northeast			
							Danville Area			

## SOFTBALL

1/4 p.m.	3.1	@Northeast	TBD
2/5 p.m.	3.3	@NW Shoals	2 p.m.
3/6 p.m.		Des Moines, Wallace St.	
		Jones @ ICC	noon
		Calhoun	1 p.m.
		Meridian	2 p.m.

**Follow ICC athletics... LetsGoICC.com**  
**or on Twitter... @LetsGoICC**



## Wearing red

In celebration of February as Women's Heart Health Month, ICC's AP2 class wore red to lab last Wednesday afternoon. They dissected pig hearts. - Photos courtesy of Lindsey Patterson.



## ICC to enroll new adult education students, Feb. 20, at Belden

### Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College will enroll new day adult education students at the Belden Center, Feb. 20.

Individuals 18 years of age and older will begin at 9 a.m., and 16-/17-year-old students, 1 p.m.

Participants must have a photo ID, and 16-/17-year-olds should be accompanied by a parent or guardian and bring a withdrawal form from the most recent school attended.

Day and night classes are also of-

fered throughout the ICC District.

The schedule includes

Aberdeen - The Aspire Group (110 East Commerce St.), Monday and Tuesday, 5-8 p.m.;

Amory - WIN Job Center (1619 Highland Drive), Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.;

Belden - ICC Belden Center (3200 Adams Farm Rd.), Monday and Tuesday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and 4:30-8:30 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; and ESL, Monday

through Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Fulton - ICC (Academic Building rooms 212, 217), Monday and Tuesday, 3:30-7:30 p.m.

Houston - WIN Job Center (210 South Monroe St.), Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; and

Pontotoc - WIN Job Center (316 Coffee St.), Monday and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

There is no cost for the classes.

The ESL program, Belden Center

evening courses and all WIN Job Centers offer open continuous enrollment.

GED and HiSet testing is continuing on a weekly basis, and all program-enrolled students take the GED or HiSet free of charge. For more information on scheduling an appointment, contact Priscilla Trice at pbtrice@icccms.edu or call (662) 407-1513.

For general information about classes or program, email adulteducation@icccms.edu or call (662) 4017-1510 or (662) 407-1517.

## Pate and Wilson From page twelve

"Being a college basketball coach is something I have dreamed of since I started coaching, and I can't think of a better place to get my first head coaching job than Itawamba Community College," he emphasized.

"I'm extremely proud for Coach Wilson and excited about the future of the program under his direction," Pate said. "He'll be able to make a quick

transition to keep things moving in a positive direction and take the program to the next level."

Wilson was a member of the Jackson State University men's basketball team (2018-22), where he was selected captain during his junior, senior and graduate seasons. In 2021, the Tigers went undefeated in conference play and won the SWAC regular season

championship.

Prior to his time at Jackson State, Wilson was an NJCAA Academic All-American and a 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame inductee at Copiah-Lincoln Community College. He graduated with honors from Brookhaven High School, where he was a multi-sport athlete. In basketball, he earned 5A

All-State (2015), All-Region (2015, 16), All-District and All-Star (2014, 15, 16) honors. In football, he was named a Wendy's High School Heisman State finalist and earned All-Region honors (2014, 15). In baseball, he earned All-Region honors (2015). Wilson was also a member of the National Honor Society.



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